

CLAIMS

1. A carrier for growing trays, comprising a series of legs and a supporting surface carried thereby, wherein:

- in said supporting surface, adjacent at least a number of and preferably each of the legs, an opening is provided, such that the carriers in a storage position are stackable in nested position, with a number of legs of one or more upper carriers reaching into at least a number of said openings of a lower carrier; and

- the supporting surface determines at least one outer contour, while the legs extend at least partly outside said outer contour, such that two carriers in a position of use are stackable, with the legs of an upper carrier resting on the legs of a lower carrier.

2. A carrier according to claim 1, wherein the carrier is designed such that next to at least a number of and preferably each of the legs, a recess is provided, partly situated within said outer contour viewed at right angles to the supporting surface, the arrangement being such that two carriers can be arranged next to each other, with at least two legs of a first carrier being received at least partly in recesses of a second carrier arranged next to it, and vice versa.

3. A carrier according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the outer contour is determined by a longitudinal edge which is slightly raised relative to the supporting surface.

4. A carrier according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein on at least two opposite sides of the supporting surface, at least two legs are provided, wherein, seen in side view, the legs on a first side of the supporting surface are staggered relative the legs on the opposite side, such that these, in said side view, are visible at least substantially next to each other.

5. A carrier according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein each opening has such dimensions that therein at least two and preferably at least three legs can be received next to each other.

6. A carrier according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the supporting surface is manufactured like a grid.

7. A series of carriers according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein

- in a storage position the carriers are stackable in nested condition, with the legs of at least one carrier resting on the legs of a lower carrier, preferably thereby enclosing at least one, more in particular at least two supporting surfaces of intermediate carriers; and

- in a position of use, the carriers are placeable next to each other, for forming substantially continuous rows of carriers.

8. An assembly of a carrier according to any one of claims 1-6 or a series of carriers according to claim 7, wherein at least a number of carriers and preferably each of the carriers is provided with at least one tray with plant cavities, carried by the supporting surface of the respective carrier, and wherein the tray or an assembly of a series of such trays next to each other has an outer contour substantially corresponding to the outer contour of the supporting surface.

9. An assembly according to claim 8, wherein the or each tray is provided with a collar substantially determining the outer contour, which, in the condition when placed on the carrier, is spaced from the respective supporting surface.

10. An assembly according to claim 8 or 9, wherein in said position of use a series of carriers are placeable next to and/or behind each other, such that trays supported thereon substantially abut each other.

11. An assembly according to claim 10, wherein in said position of use, also the supporting surfaces and/or legs of the respective carriers substantially abut each other.

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carriers are substantially manufactured by injection molding and the trays are preferably substantially manufactured through deformation of sheet material, in particular through vacuum forming technique.

- 5 13. A method for growing and transporting seedlings and the like, wherein:

a series of assemblies according to any one of claims 1-7, at least a series of carriers according to any one of claims 1-7 and matching trays with plant cavities are supplied to an environment of use, with the carriers being
10 nested;

- the carriers are set up next to and/or behind each other at a growing position and the trays are placed on supporting surfaces thereof, such that the trays substantially abut each other without intermediate space;

- 15 - seedlings are placed in the plant cavities and are grown therein;
- the carriers with trays supported thereon having seedlings grown therein are stacked by each time positioning the legs of a first carrier on the legs of a lower, second carrier;

- the stacked carriers with trays and seedlings are conveyed to a
20 planting position;

- the seedlings are repotted in the planting position;

- the trays are removed and the carriers are stacked in said nested position and are returned to said position of use.